

Air Combat Command

Crew Chief Safety Award of Distinction

SRA MATTHEW LUKETINA
A1C RYAN RAMBO

On Feb. 17, 2002, an F-15C aircraft laden with live munitions was scheduled to fly in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE. SrA Matthew Luketina was driving in the expeditor truck prepared to respond to red balls and A1C Ryan Rambo was launching the aircraft. With the number two engine running, A1C Rambo signaled the aircrew to start engine number one. At that time, SrA Luketina noticed an audible pitch difference coming from the jet fuel starter and immediately investigated to determine the cause. Upon opening a servicing door, SrA Luketina identified flames in the Airframe Mounted Accessory Drive (AMAD) bay, located below the engine. Without hesitation, he signaled A1C Rambo to perform an emergency shutdown and egressed the pilot. Meanwhile, SrA Luketina doused the flames with a nearby fire bottle. The team's ability to think and act quickly under extreme pressure prevented injury to the pilot and other personnel and significant damage to the aircraft.



July 2002



94th Fighter Squadron
1st Fighter Wing
Langley AFB, Va.